

## RDTC Q&A:

*RDTC Question: Randolph always seems to be on the losing end of every state-based formula, too, compared to other wealthier towns and larger cities. For example, we lose millions in Chapter 90 road repair funds because we cannot afford to get our streets "accepted". What can you or the Commonwealth do to help?*

**Sonia Chang-Diaz campaign's response:** As Governor Sonia will: **Invest boldly in infrastructure to ensure safe roads and bridges**; Expand our public transit including **developing West-East rail**, and a **robust, electrified Regional Rail system with all day 15 to 30 minute train service**; Incentivize use of **public transit by moving to a fare-free system**; **IN HER FIRST BUDGET PROPOSAL, include funding to remove fares from MBTA and RTA buses immediately**; Raise funding for Public Transit infrastructure by **repealing tax breaks for corporations that shift income to off shore accounts**; Invest heavily in shared streets programs that promote walking and biking as driving alternatives; Work with cities and towns to think creatively about street improvements that can cut down commute times.

*RDTC Question: The worst formula for Randolph is the Chapter 70 education funding formula. We have huge expenses due to our high immigrant and ESL population, which results in high local real estate taxes despite poor scores for our schools. What can you or the Commonwealth do to update the formula to get communities like ours more state funding for our schools?*

**Sonia Chang-Diaz campaign's response:** As a former public school teacher, Sonia knows first-hand the importance of providing our families, educators, and school districts the support they need to give every child the chance for success. As a policy-maker, she also knows that empowering an educated workforce is our state's single best strategy for economic prosperity.

What she will do: Sonia has released a comprehensive education plan to deliver universal, debt-free, quality education from birth into adulthood for every kid. She will **establish Universal Early Education for all families**, fully implement **K-12 funding reforms from the Student Opportunity Act**, and **Provide Debt Free public college for all Massachusetts students**

What she has done: **wrote the Education PROMISE Act** which served as the basis for the Student Opportunity Act, **giving \$1.5 billion in new progressive aid annually to K-12 districts across the state**; **Co-chaired the bi-partisan Foundation Budget Review Commission** which found that MA was underestimating costs of K-12 education by \$1-2 billion every year; Negotiated key reforms to statewide education policy including **allowing public schools to provide bilingual education to English learners**, **reforms to the state's school discipline laws**, and **expansions of civics education**; Consistently prioritized **increased funding for early educator salaries** and subsidies to **reduce waitlists for children in need of care**

*RDTC Question: In the wake of overturning Roe, what can be done in Massachusetts to prevent further erosion of reproductive rights?*

**Sonia Chang-Diaz campaign's response:** Sonia is proud to have spent her career fighting for gender equality and she plans to continue that work as Governor by: Establishing a **universal system of high quality early education and child care**, ensuring that all women who wish to be in the workforce are able to do so; **Strongly supporting reproductive rights**, especially as they are under attack at the federal level; Providing better **healthcare access for low income people who have just given birth**; pushing for laws to institute **paid family leave**, **protecting women from sexual assault on college campuses**, and ensure **pay equity**

*RDTC Question: What can be done in Massachusetts to protect same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights if the "right to privacy" is eroded?*

**Sonia Chang-Diaz campaign's response:** Sonia has been a strong ally for the LGBTQ+ community for her entire career, even before she was a Senator. She started off as a **youth organizer working to protect equal marriage rights for same-sex couples with MassEquality**. As Senator she was the **lead sponsor of the Transgender Equal Rights Laws passed in 2011 and 2016**.

As Governor she will: Pass the Massachusetts Parentage Act to **ensure equality for LGBTQ+ families seeking to establish legal parentage**; Pass the Healthy Youth Act to **provide comprehensive LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education**; Ensure that people are able to **list their sexual orientation and gender identity in critical state services systems in order to better identify and address potential disparities**; Promote **LGBTQ+ inclusive safe school programs**; **Expand HIV prevention and treatment services**; Ensure **LGBTQ+ individuals who are incarcerated are placed in locations consistent with their gender identity**